

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A copolymer comprising the following monomers:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

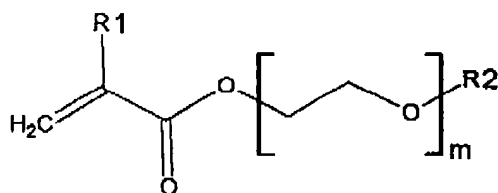
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

2. (Previously presented) The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises the following monomers:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

3. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

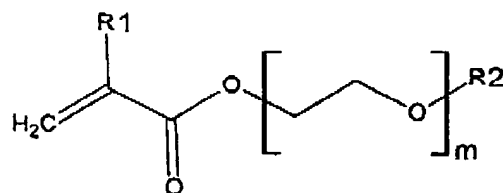
a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum
of the monomer weights.

4. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the
following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl, and

R₂ is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum
of the monomer weights.

5. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

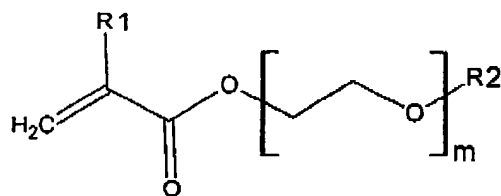
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

6. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

7. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight

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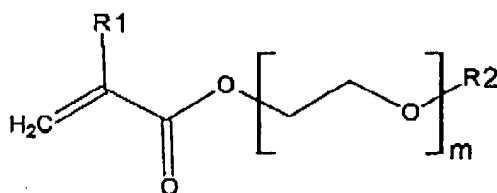
wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

8. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

9. (Previously presented) A film for use in coating pharmaceutical formulations, wherein the film is prepared by removing water from an aqueous dispersion according to any one of claims 3 to 8.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising:

- a) a pharmaceutical core comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient; and
- b) a film coating comprising a film according to claim 9.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pharmacologically active ingredient which is provided in a plurality of beads wherein each of the beads is coated with a film according to claim 9.

12. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the formulation is a controlled release formulation.

13. (Currently amended) The formulation according to claim 10 or 11 [or 12], wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient has activity in the treatment of cardiovascular or gastrointestinal diseases.

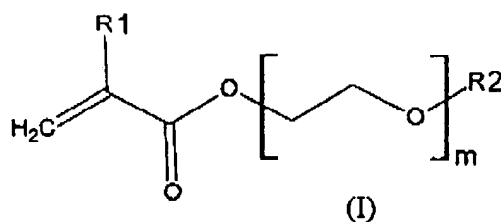
14. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 13, wherein the pharmacologically active ingredient is a beta-blocking adrenergic agent.

15. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 14 in which the pharmacologically active ingredient is metoprolol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Previously presented) The formulation according to claim 15, wherein the metoprolol salt is the tartrate, succinate, fumarate or benzoate salt.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a copolymer, wherein the process comprises polymerizing the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifier:
ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;
methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and
a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

24. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 23, wherein the process is carried out at a temperature in the range of 1 to 100°C.

25. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a pharmaceutically active ingredient contained in a pharmaceutical core or in a plurality of beads, wherein the process comprises coating the pharmaceutical core or each of the beads with a film coating dispersion according to any one of claims 3 to 8.

26. (Previously presented) The aqueous polymer dispersion according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD. and wherein the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.

27. (New) The copolymer according to claim 2, wherein m is an integer from 2-55 in the monomer of formula I.

28. (New) The copolymer according to claim 2, wherein m is 4, R1 is hydrogen and R2 has 13 carbon atoms in the monomer of formula I.

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29. (New) The copolymer according to claim 2, wherein m is 10, R1 is hydrogen and R2 has 11 carbon atoms in the monomer of formula I.

30. (New) The copolymer according to claim 2, wherein m is 25, R1 is hydrogen and R2 has 18 carbon atoms in the monomer of formula I.

31. (New) The copolymer according to claim 2, wherein m is 1, R1 is methyl and R2 is hydrogen in the monomer of formula I.

32. (New) The copolymer according to claim 2, wherein m is 9, R1 is methyl and R2 is hydrogen in the monomer of formula I.